

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 IO-10 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 141631Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3784

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: AZORES DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 4634 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: JUNTA GOVERNATIVA HAS BEEN CREATED AND WILL HAVE 20 MILLION DOLLARS TO WORK WITH IN FIRST YEAR. FRANCE PRESS REPORTED EXISTANCE OF AZORES CLANDESTINE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE SECOND-HAND REPORT THAT UDI EXPECTED ON AUGUST 15. END SUMMARY

1. JUNTA GOVERNATIVA CREATED: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON AUGUST 12 ANNOUNCED CREATION OF "JUNTA GOVERNATIVE" FOR AZORES. BODY WILL BE COMPOSED OF MILITARY GOVERNOR OF AZORES (GEN. MAGALHAES) AND SIX VOTING MEMBERS "ESPECIALLY QUALIFIED IN FIELDS OF ECONOMICS, PUBLIC WORKS, LABOR AND SOCIAL RELATIONS, EDUCATION, AND CULTURE." MANNER IN WHICH MEMBERS WILL BE SELECTED IS UNCLEAR FROM TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT. COUNCIL WILL BE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND WILL EXERCISE SUCH POWERS "AS SHALL BE DELEGATED BY THE GOVERNMENT." GOP ALSO
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ANNOUNCED THAT 20 MILLION DOLLARS WAS BEING MADE AVAILABLE

THIS CALENDAR YEAR FOR AZORES DEVELOPMENT. (COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT GEN. MAGALHAES HAS ALREADY SELECTED JUNTA MEMBERS FROM LISTS PRESENTED TO HIM BY THE SOCIALISTS AND POPULAR DEMOCRATS IN THE AZORES. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER MAGALHAES RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY A MAINLAND REGIME AT SUCH IDEOLOGICAL VARIANCE WITH THE GOVERNOR AND HIS JUNTA CANDIDATES. END COMMENT).

2. SOMETHING HAPPENING ON AUG 15?: SOUTH AFRICAN DATT TOLD OUR DATT THAT SEPARATISTS HAD SELECTED AUG 15 TO DECLARE INDEPENDENCE. AUG 15 WAS SELECTED BECAUSE THAT IS BEGINNING OF LONG WEEKEND IN PORTUGAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION IS SUCH ON MAINLAND THAT POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS ARE SO DISTRACTED THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REACT EFFECTIVELY TO A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. ANOTHER SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE SEPARATISTS PLANNED TO PRESENT A LETTER TO WALDHEIM ON AUG 15 DEMANDING REFERENDUM ON INDEPENDENCE.

3. COMMENT: JUNTA GOVERNATIVA WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD IDEA SIX MONTHS AGO, BUT WORD WE ARE GETTING FROM OUR AZOREAN CONTACTS NOW IS THAT INDEPENDENCE MOVE IS VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE AND WILL COME AT END OF AUGUST OR IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. HOWEVER, MAGALHAES IS COMPETENT AND RESPECTED IN THE ISLANDS AND IF ANYBODY CAN MAKE IT WORK HE IS PROBABLY THE MAN.
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